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EVEN ATLANTIC CITY PROPOSES A REFORM IN BATHING SUITS NEXT YEAR

Society's Famous Resort In the East Finally Is Shocked By Exhibitions At the Close Of the Season and Will Draw More Confining Lines On the Curves In 1916—Experts Consider That the Limit Of Exposure Has Been Reached

If Venus de Milo, Lady Godiva and the other unclothed celebrities of history and mythology last summer should have taken a walk along the beach some sunny afternoon, more than likely they would have blushed with shame and call loudly for Anthony Comstock or some other well known reformer. For the beach is much in need of reforming. Reformation is promised next summer.

That is not to say the beach, itself, for in winter it is one of the best behaved beaches on the Atlantic ocean, but when summer comes and society maids and matrons journey to Atlantic City to display their curves and their abbreviated bathing suits the mercury hits the top of the thermometer and the lifeguards blush beneath their tan. For the display of legs and shapes along the beach is something to shock even the New York "rounders," who boast they have seen every form of wickedness along Broadway until they get a peek at the beach here. Then the New Yorker blushes and admits that at last there is something in the world that was not stolen from right off the White Way.

Speaking of bathing suits so small they may be tucked inside of a handbag and not take up much room, there are many so small that they seem to contain no greater amount of material than is in the ordinary lady's handkerchief.

It seems the fair ones vie with one another in trimming off unnecessary portions of their bathing costumes. Just recently the last word in shocking water apparel appeared on the beach upon the person of a very attractive New York maid, whose name is not mentioned for the very obvious reason that none learned it—nobody had time to think of such a detail while undergoing the shock that her appearance caused.

WITHOUT A BACK.

Not to go too deeply into the matter of feminine dress, (in this case feminine semi-nudity) the costume had little or no back. Kipling might describe it as he does in Gunga Din: "The uniform he wore was nothin' much before an' rather less than 'art of that behind." This costume was rather "less than 'art of that behind" in that the V-cut ended far below the waist line, showing a broad expanse of pink flesh, the shoulder straps were a negligible quantity and the cut in front extended a little too low for it to be a costume accepted as proper in a girl's boarding school.

The police along the beach looked at the innovation with the same dazzled appearance with which a man blinks at the sun, and then called a female member of the force. The latter borrowed a bathrobe, placed it over the outer bathing suit with about the same result as a person placing an extinguisher over the wick of a lighted candle, and then led the young maid back to her hotel where she gave her a matronly lecture about the forgotten grace known as propriety and warned her that her next informal appearance on the beach as "September Morn" would result in her arrest and appearance in police court.

Of course, the New York maid didn't appear again in that or any other costume for a fond mother and father, without whose knowledge the shocking costume was displayed, took their daughter home the very next day.

Of course, this girl's appearance was heralded in newspapers throughout the country and for fear some may doubt that such conditions exist at the Atlantic City beach, let it be said that such extreme costumes are seen daily and the shocks to those of Puritanical ideas are so rapid as to be almost continuous.

The matter has become of such great importance that the police department is considering severe ac-

tion to prevent such displays. Atlantic City, until it was discovered to be the most fashionable resort in the United States and the Ostend of America, was a provincial town and the inhabitants were so far behind the times as to earn their living by the sweat of their brows. Then came the rich to Atlantic City, and made it what it is today. The inhabitants turned from their rustic pursuits to the more attractive ones of making their living off the millionaire visitors. For all of which Atlantic City aborigines are more or less much obliged, but still they cannot live down their original domestic traits that required women to appear in the presence of their lords fully clothed.

Of course, when Atlantic City has some complaint to make against its rich visitors it does so in such a way that the wealthy will not be angered and withdraw their patronage. No Atlantic City hardly would desire that it lose its generous patrons. But even to this day there are those among its original inhabitants with ideas so old fashioned and recollections of the past so strong that they would desire to look upon women fully clothed rather than in semi-nudity.

So conferences are occasionally held behind closed doors in which Atlantic City lifts its hands in shame and calls upon its police force to accomplish certain reforms. The police force derives its support indirectly from the wealthy and therefore can occasionally voice its opinion and make regulations regarding the morals of the city.



TYPICAL COSTUME OF LAST SEASON

liceman walking beside a veritable sea-nymph with his cheeks blazing, his eyes averted and the crowd of bathers laughing at him. With several thousand people along the board walk to look at the embarrassed patrolman do you think he would take a chance? Most policemen are brave men. They give up their lives readily, they fight burglars in the dark, they arrest murderers, they raid counterfeit dens and think nothing of it. But when it comes to arresting women, and especially a sea-nymph, whom he might have to lend his uniform coat before he could

lead her to the police station, the patrolman is about ready to surrender his star and revolver and pick out some less violent pursuit.

So policemen were appointed and have done a great deal to tone up Atlantic City's morals. But even they are powerless at times to fully enforce the law.

Witness the case of Miss Walsh, a million-heiress, who recently consigned one of the lifeguards to fiery punishment for upbraiding her violation of shore etiquette. Miss Walsh is a rather determined and almost frolicsome young lady. She is fond of canoeing and recently drove her canoe into a crowd of bathers here on the beach. She injured one woman. Whereupon Miss Walsh told him to go to h— and mind his own business.

COMING REFORM IS

However, all the visitors to Atlantic City cannot be condemned for the errors of the few on the beach. There are staid mammas and papas who came there with their children with the sole object of having a certain amount of innocent pleasure. They, of course, deplore the costumes of those who make the beach a place for national comment and condemnation.

There are those who add a little to the dignity of the beach by appearing in costumes that are both moderate and chaste and at the same time beautiful. Some of these suits cost \$100, and are made either of silk, crepe de chine or taffeta. The skirts extend far below the knees, the waists are full and with them is worn a brassiere. Green, blues and blacks predominate, novelty striped hose of different colors. Fetching little caps of rubberized taffetas and silks to match the bathing suits, are worn.

Mantles of gorgeous colors that contrast with the bathing suits are worn. The mantles usually hang to within nine inches of the ground. A maid holds the mantle and a sunshade while the mistress bathes.

Of course, the bathing beaches are not the worst places for fads and foibles in Atlantic City. One must remember that the board walk really is the main attraction and the show place of Atlantic City. Thou-



A FAKE RESCUE



A WATER BATTLE

sands flock there on Easter Sunday to display the milliner and designer's greatest art. Creations from Paris are shown galore in that peacock strut of the country's fashionables along the boardwalk.

The shops, hotels and dancing pavilions are scattered along this famous walk. The extremes as well as the conservatives come there at the great season of rejoicing to observe and be observed.

AND THEN COME THE DOGS.

The extremes wear the gaudiest costumes and employ the most unusual things to set off their own beauty. Mrs. Vernon Castle, of course, started a mild craze when she appeared there with her trained monkey in her muff. It was good advertising for Mrs. Vernon Castle, of course, and the Vernon Castles are said to be not averse to having

their names and pictures in the newspapers for it really helps the dancing business, don't you know.

Then there is a fair ratio of women leading dogs of freakish appearance with their husbands somewhere in the background. First in importance in the fashion parade is the lady herself in her splendid costume, next is the freakish dog that trots before her as if it were an advertisement of her approach and behind is the mild-mannered man, who foots the bills. He is there as silent evidence of the fact that the dress was obtained honestly and is paid for. Other than that he is more or less worthless.

Being a husband in Atlantic City, by the way, is a position that ranks lower than that of the lowest menial in the place. The head waiter looks down upon the man of the party as if he were one not above sus-

picion of pouring his coffee into his saucer.

So, such is Atlantic City, the great show place of America where women vie with each other for leadership in oddities. When the Easter season is ended, when the monkey in a muff attraction of Mrs. Vernon Castle has lost its originality and power of advertising, then there is the bathing beach where shape counts for everything and abbreviated bathing suits are the chief aids of shape.

And there is no end of possibilities for displaying such bathing suits for the gulf stream strikes the coast there and it is always bathing time. So why shouldn't those of Puritanical beliefs issue a hurry call for Anthony Comstock to come and give Atlantic City Beach the once over and allow him to place his seal of condemnation upon the shocking scenes on the beach? Eh, why not?

Doris Roberts

LEARNING EARLY

GIRL SWIMMERS

READY FOR A DIVE